

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/697,557

Examiner

John M Winter

Applicant(s)

FREENY, CHARLES C. *ST*

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the paper filed on April 19, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5, 6, 8-12, 15-23, 25, 26, 28-34 and 36.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 October 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Status

Claims 1-3, 5-6,8-12, 15-23,25-26,28-34 and 36 remain pending,

Response to Arguments

1. The Applicant's arguments files on May 12, 2004 have been fully considered.

As per claims 1-3, 5-6,8-12, 15-23,25-26,28-34 and 36 the Examiner finds that limitations of claims 1-3, 5-6,8-12, 15-23,25-26,28-34 and 36 are not disclosed in any prior art references.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3, 5-6,8-12, 15-23,25-26,28-34 and 36 are allowed over the prior art record.

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
2. The closest prior art of record Dickson et al. (US Patent 6,574,603) teaches a method for in vehicle ordering. "DIY Kit KS232D Time Recorder teaches a system for using an RFID time clock. Hartsell (EP 0 982 264 A1) teaches a system that for dispensing fuel.

What they fail to teach or suggest:

- a. A method for managing a plurality of proximity service systems, comprising the steps of: storing in a proximity service provider computer system a plurality of proximity service codes, each proximity service code being uniquely associated with one or more proximity service systems, each proximity service system providing a predetermined service in response to receiving an authorization code from a proximity authorization unit; providing access to the proximity service codes stored in the proximity service provider computer system to a customer; receiving from the customer the customer's selection of one or more of the proximity service codes stored in the proximity service provider computer system by inputting a customer code uniquely identifying the particular customer and an identification of the selected proximity service codes; end providing to the customer by the proximity service provider computer system a proximity authorization code unique to the customer for the selected proximity service proximity authorization unit and a system customer code uniquely identifying the customer, the proximity authorization code and unique for the selected permitting the customer to operate associated with the proximity service code by outputting the proximity authorization code by the customer using the customer's proximity authorization unit for activating one of the proximity service systems service systems associated with the selected proximity service codes to provide the predetermined service: and receiving information, by the proximity service provider computer system, from the proximity service systems indicating usage of the proximity service

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systems, the information including proximity authorization codes identifying the customers using the proximity service systems, and proximity service codes identifying the proximity service systems, wherein at least some of the proximity service systems are owned by a first owner, and at least some of the proximity service systems are owned by a second owner, and wherein the method further comprises the steps of outputting a statement for the first owner indicative of usage of the proximity service systems owned by the first owner-e--and outputting a statement for the second owner indicative of usage of the proximity service systems owned by the second owner.

This distinct feature renders claim 1 allowable.

Claims 2,3,5,6,8-11,15-19, and 21-23 are dependant upon claim 1 respectively and have all of the limitations of claim 1 respectively, and are allowable for the same reasons.

b. [REDACTED] A method for managing a plurality of proximity service systems, comprising the steps of: storing in a proximity service provider computer system a plurality of proximity service codes, each proximity service code being uniquely associated with one or more proximity service systems, each proximity service system providing a predetermined service in response to receiving an authorization code from a proximity authorization unit: providing access to the proximity service codes stored in the proximity service provider computer System to a customer; receiving from the customer the customer's selection of one or more of the proximity service codes stored in the proximity service provider computer system by inputting a customer code uniquely identifying the particular customer and an identification of the selected proximity service codes; providing to the customer by the proximity service provider computer system a proximity authorization code unique to the customer for the selected proximity service code and unique for the selected proximity authorization unit and a system customer code uniquely identifying the customer, the proximity authorization code permitting the customer to operate proximity service systems associated with the proximity service code by outputting the proximity authorization code by the customer using the customer's proximity authorization unit for activating one of the proximity service systems associated with the selected proximity service codes to provide the predetermined service; providing access to the proximity service codes stored in the proximity service provider computer system to en a first operator; receiving from the a operator the first operator's selection of one or more of the proximity service codes stored in the proximity service provider computer system by inputting selected proximity service code an identification of the providing access to the proximity service codes stored in the proximity service provider computer system to a second operator; receiving from a second operator the second operator's selection of one or more of the proximity service codes stored in the proximity service provider computer system by inputting an identification of the selected proximity service codes; receiving information, by the proximity service provider computer system, from the proximity service systems indicating usage of the proximity service systems, the information including proximity authorization codes identifying the customers using the proximity service systems, and proximity service codes identifying the proximity service systems; and outputting a statement for the first operator indicative of usage of the proximity service systems operated by the first operator, and outputting a statement for the second operator indicative of usage of the proximity service systems operated by the second operator;

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This distinct feature renders claim 12 allowable.

c. A method for managing a plurality of proximity service systems, comprising the steps of: storing in a proximity service provider computer system a plurality of proximity service codes, each proximity service code being uniquely associated with one or more proximity service systems, each proximity service system providing a predetermined service in response to receiving an authorization code from a proximity authorization unit; providing access to plurality of individualized predetermined payment methods to the customer; receiving from the customer the customer's selection of one or more of the individualized predetermined payment methods; providing access to the proximity service codes stored in the proximity service provider computer system to a customer based on the customer's selection of the individualized predetermined payment methods; receiving from the customer the customer's selection of one or more of the proximity service codes stored in the proximity service provider computer system by inputting a customer code uniquely identifying the particular customer and an identification of the selected proximity service codes; and providing to the customer by the proximity service provider computer system a proximity authorization code unique to the customer for the selected proximity service code and unique for the selected proximity authorization unit and a system customer code uniquely identifying the customer, the proximity authorization code permitting the customer to operate proximity service systems associated with the proximity service code by outputting the proximity authorization code by the customer using the customer's proximity authorization unit for activating one of the proximity service systems associated with the selected proximity service codes to provide the predetermined service.

This distinct feature renders claim 20 allowable.

d. A local authorization system comprising: a plurality of proximity authorization units, each proximity authorization unit capable of storing and outputting a unique request authorization code; a proximity service provider providing a unique request authorization code to each of the proximity authorization units and each of the proximity authorization units storing the request authorization code provided by the proximity service provider, the request authorization code including a proximity service provider code and a customer code, the proximity service provider code uniquely identifying the proximity service provider providing the request authorization code to the proximity authorization unit and the customer code uniquely identifying a particular customer, the request authorization codes provided to the proximity authorization units being encrypted with a private key associated with the proximity service provider; a plurality of proximity service units, each proximity service unit providing a predetermined service when activated in response to receiving and validating the request authorization code from one of the proximity authorization units, each proximity service unit receiving and storing a public key and the proximity service provider code from the proximity service provider, each proximity service unit validating each request authorization code received from one of the proximity authorization units by decrypting the request authorization codes with the public key and comparing the proximity service provider code

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received by the proximity service unit from the proximity service provider with the proximity service provider code decrypted from the request authorization codes received from the proximity authorization units, the proximity service unit providing the predetermined service upon matching age the proximity service provider code received by the proximity service unit with the proximity service provider code decoded from the request authorization code received from the proximity authorization unit.

This distinct feature renders claim 25 allowable.

e. A proximity service provider system for managing a plurality of proximity service systems, the proximity service provider system comprising :

at least one PSPS Web site comprising :established on the Internet, the PSPS Web an owner database server receiving an owner's offering of proximity service systems, including a physical location for each proximity service system, a payment method for each proximity service system and a financial location for depositing money collected from usage of the proximity service systems, each of the proximity service systems being identified by a stored proximity service code, the payment method selected by the owner for each proximity service system serving as a predetermined payment method for the particular proximity service system; a customer database server permitting a customer to select proximity service systems identified by the stored proximity service codes in the owner database server, the customer database server receiving a customer's selection of proximity service systems offered by the owner of the proximity service systems, the customer's selection including a selection of a payment method from the predetermined payment methods for each proximity service system selected by the customer; and further wherein the PSPS Web Site is constructed by a method comprising the steps of : providing a master operating software system designed by the steps of : providing, first, a design matrix having at least two axes with the system application programs being represented on one of the axes, and user requirement elements for providing services to at least two of users of proximity services, owners of proximity services, operators of proximity services and financial services being represented by another one of the axes, the system application programs each defining a particular technology, and each of the-user requirement elements defining a particular user requirement; locating one unique intersection point between each of the user requirement elements represented on one of the axes and the system application programs represented by another one of the axes in the design matrix; and developing a technology converter requirement for each intersection point. Each technology converter requirement using the system application program at each intersection point to develop an output satisfying the user requirement element at the corresponding intersection point.

This distinct feature renders claim 26 allowable.

Claims 28-30 are dependant upon claim 26 respectively and have all of the limitations of claim 26 respectively, and are allowable for the same reasons.

f. A proximity service provider system for managing a plurality of proximity service systems, the proximity service provider system comprising:

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at least one PSPS Web site established on the Internet, the PSPS Web site comprising : an owner database server receiving a first owner's offering of proximity service systems, including a physical location for each proximity service system, a payment method for each proximity service system--and a financial location for depositing money collected from usage of the proximity service systems, ea-ch- of the proximity service systems offered by the first owner being identified by a stored proximity service code, the payment method selected by the first owner for each proximity service system serving as a predetermined payment method for the particular proximity service system, and receiving a second owner's offering the owner database server receiving a second owner's offering of proximity service systems, including a physical location for each proximity service system, a payment method for each proximity service system and a financial location for depositing money collected from usage of the proximity service systems, each of the proximity service systems offered by the second owner being identified by a stored proximity service code, the payment method selected by the second owner for each proximity service system sewing as a predetermined payment method for the particular proximity service System; a customer database server permitting a customer to select proximity service systems identified by the stored proximity service codes in the owner database sewer, the customer database server receiving a customer's selection of proximity service systems offered by the owner of the proximity service systems, the customer's selection including a selection of a payment method from the predetermined payment methods for each proximity service system selected by the customer; wherein the owner database server receives information from the proximity service systems indicating usage of the proximity service systems, the information including proximity authorization codes identifying the customers using the proximity service systems, and proximity service codes identifying the proximity service systems; and wherein the owner database server outputs a statement for the owner indicative of usage of the proximity service systems owned by the first owner, and outputs a statement for the second owner indicative of usage of the proximity service systems owned by the second owner.

This distinct feature renders claim 31 allowable.

Claims 32-34 and 36 are dependant upon claim 31 respectively and have all of the limitations of claim 31 respectively, and are allowable for the same reasons.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John M Winter whose telephone number is (703) 305-3971. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6, 1st Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James P Trammell can be reached on (703)305-9768. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

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JMW

July 25, 2004



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